

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for carrying out a surface treatment of a substrate under vacuum, comprising:

a housing including at least two chambers communicating with at least one vacuum source, at least one of the chambers being designed to serve as a vacuum lock chamber which can be opened to atmosphere and in which the substrate can be introduced and removed to access the remaining chambers,

wherein the housing includes an upper housing half and a lower housing half peripherally joined by a flexible sealing member, at least one of the housing halves having at least two symmetrically distributed recesses, which are intended to constitute at least some of the chambers, together with a revolver pivotally mounted between the housing halves and including revolver recesses in which the substrate is intended to be placed,

wherein outer walls of the upper and lower [[the]] housing halves under an action of a force-generating member [[is]] are designed to be moved from a first position in which the upper and lower housing halves, through tight, sealing contact with the revolver, prevent rotation thereof, to a second position in which the upper and lower housing halves are separated from the revolver in order to permit rotation of the latter to predefined positions, and

wherein at least one of the revolver recesses at least partially coincides with one of the chambers, allowing the substrate to be moved between the chambers.

2. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein from the second position, the upper and lower housing halves are designed to assume the first position when the force generating member no longer acts between the housing halves.

3. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the at least two symmetrically distributed recesses of both upper and lower housing halves are opposing and co-incident housing half recesses and the revolver recesses are through-recesses.

4. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the vacuum lock chamber is provided peripherally with sealing members, designed to seal the vacuum lock chamber off from the remainder of the housing and from the revolver when the housing halves are in the respective first position.

5. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the remaining chambers is provided peripherally with sealing members designed to seal off from the remainder of the housing and from the revolver when the housing halves are in the respective first position.

6. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the chambers are designed to communicate with one and the same vacuum source.

7. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the chambers is designed to communicate with a vacuum source, which is only designed to communicate with the aforesaid chamber.

8. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the flexible sealing member is a metal bellow.

9. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the flexible sealing member is an O-ring.

10. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the force-generating member is a hydraulic cylinder.

11. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the revolver recesses are through-recesses.

12. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 1, wherein only one of the upper and lower housing halves has the at least two symmetrically distributed recesses.

13. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 12, wherein the at least two symmetrically distributed recesses in only one of the upper and lower housing halves are opposing and co-incident with the revolver recesses.

14. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 12, wherein the revolver recesses are not through-recesses.